

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10, 16-26, 57, 59, and 60-64, 66-68, and 80-83 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 16, 57, 59, 60, 66-68, and 81, 82, and 83 being independent.

Claims 69-79 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 60, 63, 66, 67 have been amended and new Claims 80-83 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-26, 57, and 59 have been allowed over the cited art. However, please note that Claims 1-15 were cancelled in the previous amendment.

Claims 60-64, 66-75, and 77-79 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,891 (Ginter et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in Claim 60, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of controlling to display data independently from a notification displayed based on data control information. By way of example and without limiting the claims to any particular embodiment, reference is made to Fig. 12, and page 39, line 18 *et seq.* of the specification, which shows that when "open file" is selected from a menu and a designation of the image data to be processed is received, a notification screen 1306 is displayed. In response to an input on the notification screen, the image data to be processed is displayed on editing application screen 1301, as shown in Fig. 11. According to the above-mentioned claim features, inhibition of data is clearly

presented to a user and the user can easily manipulate the data. Moreover, an author of the data can inhibit the data with certainty based on the user's acceptance.

In contrast, Ginter, et al. merely discloses permitting a data user to access the data only if the VDE system approves. However, that document does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of displaying the data independently from the display of a notification based on data control information used for inhibiting a process for the data. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 60 and Claims 61-64 and 80 depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art. Claims 66-68 recite similar features and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

As recited in Claim 81, the present invention includes, among others, the feature of controlling to change a display style of an inhibited process based on data control information so as to inhibit execution of the process for the data. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least that feature, and therefore Claim 81 is believed patentable over the cited art. Claims 82 and 83 recite a similar feature and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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